

0178

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16 MR. SONTAG: <sup>SEP 05 2001</sup> First of all, I want to thank

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17 you for this copy, because it gave me information that  
18 I could use and letters that I could write, and I have  
19 written letters. What I'd like to do is read those  
20 letters to you. Some of them. Maybe a little reverse.

21 This is one I wrote on the 26th of July to  
22 Senator Murkowski. I said, I viewed your presentation  
23 on C-span about your charts and defense of the  
24 high-level nuclear material. Material not waste,  
25 material. There is no such thing as waste when

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1 something is 10,000 years old. Going to outlive me, I  
2 think. The Yucca Mountain people keep calling it  
3 nuclear waste. Anything that has an active life of  
4 over 10,000 years is not a waste product. It is highly  
5 dangerous, and should be considered and treated as  
6 such. I am 77 years old. I have four children, eight  
7 grandchildren and six great grandchildren. I bring up  
8 my family background to emphasize my total concern for  
9 them, and the general welfare of the United States and  
10 its people.

11 You keep bringing up the billions of dollars

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12 already spent at Yucca Mountain. I was under the  
13 impression that the final disposition of the Yucca  
14 Mountain Project Feasibility Study was to be made after  
15 environmental impact statement was received and  
16 evaluated. The amount of money already spent was not  
17 to have, and should not have been the concern. Safety  
18 is my concern. Attached is a copy of the letter that I  
19 sent to the Yucca Mountain Characterization Office,  
20 which you have. I'll read that next. What will be the  
21 constant temperature without any attempts to neutralize  
22 it, will be for each individual container? Of the  
23 11,000 to 17,000 containers in the immediate vicinity  
24 of each other?

25 I cannot get an answer from the Yucca

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1 Mountain people. And I don't know why. They should  
2 know what the temperature that's going to be without it  
3 being neutralized. Is it 2,000 degrees? Is it 3,000  
4 degrees? What's going to happen? How do you  
5 neutralize it? With water? From ground water? I'll  
6 read that later. Let me finish my letter to him. In  
7 my opinion, each container is a potential atomic bomb  
8 waiting to explode. Can you imagine 17,000 atomic

9 bombs exploding at the same time in the same location?

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10 Senator Murkowski, your state of Alaska will not feel

11 the effects of any disaster at Yucca Mountain. But

12 over 40 states within the United States will.

13 That's my letter to him. But my letter to

14 other people -- and I wrote quite a few. You can guess

15 who I wrote to. I put an attachment to it saying that

16 I sent this -- I said, this copy is for your

17 information. And for any discussion or action you deem

18 necessary. And I said from the very beginning, my

19 major concern was the containers the high-level nuclear

20 material will be stored in. Now I'm not interested in

21 the mountain that you dug out that's nothing there.

22 You can build all the mountains you want. I'm not

23 interested in transportation, because nothing has been

24 decided on putting it there. What I'm interested is

25 what the containers are going to contain. And I think

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1 you ought to listen. The high-level nuclear material

2 will be stored in, which will be constant temperature

3 without attempts to neutralize it. What is the

4 temperature? I'd like to know. Nobody seems to know.

5 Nobody wants to tell you. Okay? How much heat will

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6 gamma rays, alpha rays, neutros, proteus,

7 radioactivity, fissus products and continual radiation

8 generate heat will there be?

9 MODERATOR BROWN: You've got about 30

10 seconds.

11 MR. SONTAG: Just a little bit more, please.

12 MODERATOR BROWN: Everybody wants more time.

13 MR. SONTAG: This is real important. I don't

14 think, the office has been --

15 MODERATOR BROWN: If you can be selective and

16 you can submit the letter for the record.

17 MR. SONTAG: It will be. However, your

18 supplement dated May 2001 did not indicate what the

19 heat temperature will be. Your Table 2 designated

20 there were going to be 11,000 to 17,000 containers.

21 The scope said that the temperature will be 205 degrees

22 on the rock, alongside of the caskets or the

23 containers.

24 The ventilation. The second paragraph from

25 the end states that during the emplacement, 70 percent

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1 of the heat will be taken out. So if you're taking out

2 70 percent of the heat, you're leaving 30 percent on

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3 top of 205 degrees, which the rocks will have, you're  
4 talking about 266 degrees. Now any high school student  
5 will tell you that water boils at 212. But if you,  
6 that's a failure on your cooling mechanisms, what do  
7 you have? Another 70 percent degrees on top of the  
8 266. That comes to 1,865.5 degrees. Now to me, as far  
9 as I'm concerned, and I put it down here, beside the  
10 extensive property loss, the effects on the people  
11 around the country will be devastating. And this will  
12 be thyroid glands will be affected and the blood  
13 systems, red blood cells will be overwhelmed by white  
14 blood cells, and prolonged progressive increase in the  
15 cells is called leukemia.

16 MODERATOR BROWN: Okay.

17 MR. SONTAG: I am sure by now --

18 MODERATOR BROWN: One more point, if you  
19 would, thanks.

20 MR. SONTAG: I'm sure by now you think that  
21 the high-level nuclear material in this area is a bad  
22 idea. Please reference the figures where it shows that  
23 they're going to have water cooling system within the  
24 containers. That's on page 27. Then I go on to finish  
25 off. I said, Las Vegas is only 70 air miles from Yucca

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1 Mountain. As the crow flies. California, all of  
2 Southern California is within 235 miles. They're going  
3 to be affected. And what happens if the thing blows  
4 up? The science is negated on what happens to the  
5 wind.

6 The weather. The rain. That stuff flows.  
7 West to east, normally. The whole country would be  
8 covered, then you have the Santa Ana winds of  
9 California will cover all of Southern California.  
10 Where's the science on the wind and the weather and the  
11 rain? Is there anything in that book? No. But  
12 everyone seems to ignore it, so what I'm saying, your  
13 science is flawed. You don't have that in there, and  
14 you don't dictate it, and if there's a disaster, the  
15 whole country will suffer, and I told the President  
16 that. I said, no science. No members of Congress, no  
17 President of the United States or the executive branch  
18 can overturn the winds of nature. And on top of that,  
19 no Supreme Court could overturn it. That's it.

20 MODERATOR BROWN: Thanks.

21 MR. SONTAG: One other item, I want to bring  
22 this up.

23 MODERATOR BROWN: Why don't you give that to

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24 the me to entered in record if you will.

25 MR. SONTAG: Please read this from the U.S.

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1 News World Report about a real hero, a Russian

2 scientist that took care of Chernobyl and what he went

3 through.

4 MODERATOR BROWN: Thank you very much.

5 (APPLAUSE)

6 MR. SONTAG: Don't take this lightly.